

# **Wastewater Management Commission (WWMC)**

## **Meeting Minutes April 7, 2014**

(Approved by WWMC on April 21, 2014)

**Meeting time:** 5:03 PM

**Location:** Tiverton Community Center

**WWMC members present:** Peter Andromalos (PA), Noel Berg (NB), John Christo (JC), Margaret Murphy (MM), & Leroy Kendricks (LK)

**Absent members:** Chris Nearpass (CN), Colleen Stanton (CS), Jeff Stearns (JS), Michelle Tepfenhart (MT)

**WWMS:** John Lincourt (JL), Jeanne Spencer (J)

**Guests:** Matt Abrahams, The Abrahams Group (AG)  
Mark Abrahams, The Abrahams Group (AG)  
Thomas Parece (TP), AECOM

**Tiverton Residents:** Mark Demello  
Davis Logan  
Jerrett Boehning

- 1) **Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the 18 March 2014 meeting as recorded by WWMC Clerk J was approved as motioned by NB and 2<sup>nd</sup> by JC after minor correction.
- 2) **Tiverton Wastewater District (TWD)**
  - LK stated the hearing before the RI House of Municipal Affairs Committee went well, but was continued until the next committee meeting. Adding there has been a rotation in the House, but is optimistic the Bill will pass.
  - The Senate Bill hearing is scheduled for this Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 5pm. LK will extend an invitation to attend the hearing to the Town Administrator (TA) and JC will extend an invitation to the members of the Environmental Neighborhood Awareness Committee of Tiverton (ENACT).
  - LK stated the USDA Pre-Development Planning Grant (PPG) Application has been submitted with the Preliminary and Engineering reports. TWD is looking to receive \$4 million in the first year. Adding, we have tremendous support for the project and it is a high priority.
  - AG presented financial assumption documentation entitled “Tiverton Wastewater District Financial Outlook.” A review and discussion was had, updates and corrections will be made accordingly. AG will get together with TP to use their actual numbers and present updates at the next regular scheduled meeting. LK stated it was a good start.
- 3) **Facilities Plan Update (FPU)**

- LK entertained a motion to finalize the FPU and submit it to the Town Council (TC) to then vote to submit to RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). The motion was moved by NB and 2<sup>nd</sup> by MM. The motion carried all in attendance (PA, NB, JC, MM, LK) approved. JL reviewed that there were 81 letters sent out for comments. Two comment letters and a request were received. Comments from RIDEM and RI Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) were answered. The more detailed maps requested by RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission were also included.
- LK stated the TWD will have to be frugal the first few years in operation. The TWD will need to put together a Financial Performa to include all the new expense extending out until 2016.

#### 4) **Financial:**

- J to send MM the latest General Ledger report after updating Quickbooks. MM questioned the length of time the WWMC has accumulated funds in our 'L' Account. JL stated since 1990. MM stated there are a lot of costs associated with separating from the town. PA questioned what happens if there is an economic hardship downturn. Does burden go to everyone else? MM stated that unfortunately that could lead to a tax. LK stated we should have enough reserve to prevent that. It's a scary thing about District Tax; we need to make sure we put in a lot of reserve. NB stated the need to be prudent. MM stated we may have to raise the Admin Fee and tax to keep up with the maintenance. Eventually pipes and pumps degrade; we'll need to minimize the burden.

#### 5) **General Administration:**

- Improper Billing – *Tabled*
- Owners of the Blackbird Ct. Pump Station formerly requested the WWMC take over the Pump Station and related sewer lines. Supporting documentation was submitted; Formal Request, Bill of Sale, Countryview Estates (CVE) Easement, CVE sewer line map, As Built Drawings, and video report. Highlighted were the sewer lines requested for take over. (The rest of the sewer lines are already owned by the town. The Original plan was to have a privately run sewer system. But since Wattuppa Plantation is a Public Development, it was decided the town would have to take over some of the sewer lines. The request is to now have the town take over the remaining sewer lines and pump station.) JC questioned past issues with the sewer lines. JL stated 2 lines were relocated and the As Built Drawings presented show the relocations.
- If the WWMC recommends that the town the process would be as follows:
  - i) Boydco would have to do a final inspection. If issues are reported, they would need to be resolved including all remedial work.
  - ii) The Easement and Bill of Sale be executed and approved by the Town.
  - iii) Formal change over.
  - iv) Switch over the electric.
- MM questioned the approval of the Town Solicitor (TS). JL stated the Bill of Sale and Easement went to the TS for review today. JC questioned if the WWMC should wait to vote until after another inspection is done since it's

been 6 months since the last one. The owners stated they've been going through the process for a while and have agreed to have the final inspection done closer to the time of the takeover.

- MM recommends proposing to the Town that the town take over the Blackbird Ct. Pump Station and lines. The approval is subject to final inspection and contingent on passing the inspection and any remedial work is done with all liabilities paid. NB 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.
  - A Tiverton resident questioned sewers going in in his area, stating he has issues with his septic and wanting to find out more about the project and associated cost. LK stated AECOM, our Engineering firm, put together the FPU of areas in town that would benefit from sewers. The three areas of highest priority were Bay St. with 90% failed systems and highly contaminated, Robert Gray with a number of failed systems exacerbated by storms, and Riverside Drive with substandard cesspools on top of the water. LK mentioned the 2007 Cesspool Act that the sewers will take care of that issue and wanting to get the best financial deal for the residents. The plan in the 80's failed even when the project would've been done by 90% of Grant funding. LK stating the plan was voted down by the southern part of town, which is one of the reasons why the new plan is to form a District for only the affected areas. LK stated the WWMC is in the midst of forming quasi-governmental agency/district. Adding, the Senate Bill is to be heard this Thursday and will be reconciled with the Representative Bill after the next committee meeting on the House side. Once the Bill is passed, within the April – May timeframe, we can go out to vote. The vote will be a majority ballot vote with approximately 250 ballots going out. Utilizing multi-year grant funding, construction should begin in 2015 with people connecting in 2016.
  - The resident stated how people in his area are worried because some have already replaced their system and are wondering if they'll be forced to connect. They are also worried about tie in costs. LK stated the WWMC is negotiating with the City of Fall River and are trying to drive the cost down. JL stated there will be a mainline project to put the sewers in and a 2<sup>nd</sup> project to tie each resident into the mainline. Adding, the TWD will not force the residents to use our contractor to tie in. The road will then be paved. But, all is contingent on a positive vote.
- 6) A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved as motioned by MM and 2<sup>nd</sup> by LK @ 7:30 pm. The next regular WWMC meeting date is scheduled to be held Monday, 21 April 2014, 5:00 PM at Tiverton Community Center.

**7) Action Items:**

- WWMC to look into additional resources for support and services.
- LK to testify at the State Committee Hearings and email Representative Edwards as to what is the best thing to do and when.
- LK to reach out to people of interest for the General Manager position.
- LK will extend an invitation to attend the Senate Bill hearing to the TA and JC will extend an invitation to the members of ENACT.
- Clerk J to submit only the portion of G/L MM has requested along with current A/R report.

Submitted by:

Jeanne Spencer, WWMC Clerk